

Nine Provisions to Know Before Visiting Racehorse Stables

Stable visits are made possible through the goodwill of the stable owners. The Nine Stable-Visiting Provisions represent the rules that must be strictly observed at the very least.

1 Contact the Kyousoba Furusato Information Center to discover if visits are possible.



Stables that raise racehorses are not operated for the purpose of tourism. It is therefore quite natural for visits to be possible at certain stables and not possible at others. People wishing to visit stables are requested to contact the Kyousoba Furusato Information Center in advance to discover if visits are possible. Avoid contacting the stables directly, as there are many cases in which this disturbs their work.

2 Contact the Kyousoba Furusato Information Center for details on the times of visits.



Stables that raise racehorses come in various forms, such as stud farms, production ranches and training stables, etc., and the periods and times that visits are acceptable differ between them. There are also stables that will not allow visits unless reservations have been made in advance, so you are advised to contact the Kyousoba Furusato Information Center with regard to the date of your visit after running a search for the relevant stable's website and checking the available dates.

3 Follow the instructions provided by the staff working at the stables



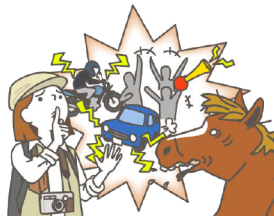
All stables have different visiting conditions with regard to prohibited areas, the horses that can be visited and sightseeing routes, etc. When arriving at the stable, contact a stable staff member first of all and then carry out your visit in accordance with the instructions provided. Upon your departure, don't forget to advise a staff member that you are leaving and thank them for their courtesy. It is important to express your gratitude for being allowed onto private property.

4 Do not enter stable buildings or grazing land without permission.



Stables are private property. Entering stable buildings, grazing land or coming into close contact with the horses in order to feed them simply because the areas seemed deserted are legitimate reasons for being accused of trespassing and are unacceptable illegal acts. Claiming to love horses is no excuse and will not be forgiven. Do not enter out-of-bounds areas without the permission of stable staff under any circumstances.

5 Do not shout or make loud noises.



Horses are extremely sensitive and timid creatures. Shouting, allowing dogs to bark, revving up motorcycles, sounding the horn on vehicles and making any other loud noise must be avoided at all costs. If you arrive at the stables by car or motorcycle, reduce speed and try to avoid making any loud noises. The high-pitched voices of women and children can also cause horses to panic, so be careful when in the vicinity of the stables.

6 Never touch the horses. It is extremely dangerous.



There is a chance that a surprised horse may become aggressive and suddenly attack. There are cases in which horses will bite hands, shoulders or other parts of the body if visitors get imprudently close, so never touch a horse even if it is standing close to the fence. Also, entering enclosures may result not only in the horses biting but also kicking, which is extremely dangerous. Stay away from the fences during your visit.

7 Smoking is prohibited on stable land.



Stable land contains a large quantity of dried grasses and other inflammable substances, so smoking is strictly forbidden. The ash from cigarettes may result in the outbreak of fire, so do not smoke on stable land under any circumstances. The cellophane wrappers and other forms of litter that are easily blown about by the wind can startle horses more than is usually believed, and this may result in serious accidents. Make sure you take your litter home with you.

8 Do not use camera flashes



Although it is quite natural to want to take commemorative photographs of the horses you visit, horses are extremely sensitive to flashing lights. If flashes are used by visitors when taking photographs on stable land, there is a possibility that it will startle the horses into running amok, which is not only dangerous for the horse itself, but also for the other horses in the vicinity and the stable staff. Make sure you use a non-flash mode to prevent the flash from firing when taking photographs. You are also requested not to take photographs with the use of selfie sticks during your visit, as these may also startle the horses into running amok.

9 Never feed the horses.



Horse stables have sterilization tanks for sterilizing the soles of shoes to ensure that bacteria and germs that cause infectious diseases in horses are not introduced onto stable land. In this way, stable owners expend a lot of effort in order to ensure that hygiene and health is strictly managed within the stable land, and all of this effort would be wasted if visitors come into close contact with the horses and feed them.

